



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

December 11, 2012

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**APPROVE THE REVISED PLAN OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE CITY OF LONG
BEACH FOR ITS CHITTICK FIELD SPORTS COMPLEX PROJECT
(FOURTH DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will reallocate \$4,340,000 in Specified Funds allocated to the City of Long Beach in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 for the development of sports fields project at Chittick Field.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Certify that the Board, as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, has independently considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the environmental effects of the proposed project and the Addendum to the Kroc Community Center Environmental Impact Report for the proposed improvements to Chittick Field adopted by the City of Long Beach, as lead agency; determine that the document adequately addresses the environmental impacts of the proposed project; find that your Board has complied with the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act with respect to the process for a responsible agency and adopt by reference the City's Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report.
2. Approve a revised plan of expenditure for a sports fields project at Chittick Field in Long Beach reallocating \$4,340,000 in Specified Funds, allocated to the City of Long Beach in Section (8),

Subsection (b), Paragraph (2), Subparagraph (U)(ii) pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will reallocate \$4,340,000 in Specified Funds allocated to the City of Long Beach in Section (8), Subsection (b), Paragraph (2), Subparagraph (U)(ii) pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 (1992 Proposition) for a sports fields project at Chittick Field in Long Beach; and adopt the Addendum to the Kroc Community Center Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Project. The Project includes the construction of a regulation football field encircled by a 400-meter all-weather running track, two youth soccer fields, and one adult soccer field. The Project site will also serve as a water detention basin and will also feature several bio-retention filtration planters as part of the park design. The reallocation of \$4,340,000 Specified Funds recommended in this action will be supplemented by \$650,000 in City redevelopment funds for a Project total of \$4,990,000.

Section (8), Subsection (b), Paragraph (2), Subparagraph (U)(ii) of the 1992 Proposition allocated \$6,200,000 to the City of Long Beach for development of El Dorado Regional Park. At a City Council meeting on December 17, 1996, the City determined that locating the Project at El Dorado Regional Park would have a negative environmental impact. After a public hearing on May 13, 1997, the City Council adopted a resolution requesting your Board to grant a revised plan of expenditure to develop the "Hilltop Site". On June 3, 1997, your Board approved a revised plan of expenditure to change the site of the Project from El Dorado Regional Park to the new 40-acre location known as "Hilltop Site".

On October 14, 2003, the Long Beach City Council approved a resolution requesting that your Board add acquisition of property to the scope of the "Hilltop Site" project since only project development for El Dorado Regional Park had been specified in the 1992 Proposition. On September 7, 2004, your Board approved a revised plan of expenditure to add the acquisition of property to the project scope.

After site analysis and environmental review, the City of Long Beach (City) has determined that the Hilltop Site is not suitable for sports fields because the site is hilly and has a natural spring on it. The City proposed to develop the Hilltop site as a passive park including walking trails, site amenities, overlooks and planting of native plants instead. Subsequently, the City Council proposed to construct the sports fields at Chittick Field instead of the Hilltop Site and adopted a resolution on August 9, 2011 to request a revised plan of expenditure to reallocate \$4,340,000 of the original \$6,200,000 to the Chittick Field Project. The City Council will adopt a resolution requesting that your Board reallocate the remaining \$1,860,000 of the original allocation to either supplement the Chittick Field Project or fund other projects.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) and Integrated Services Delivery (Goal 3) by providing enhanced sports opportunities in the City of Long Beach in the Fourth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The 1992 Proposition allocated \$6,200,000 to the City of Long Beach. The City spent a total of

\$1,860,000 for development of El Dorado Regional Park and Hilltop Site projects which are ineligible for the 1992 Proposition funding. The City has negotiated with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for a repayment plan of these ineligible costs. Upon the City's repayment of the entirety of the \$1,860,000, the City Council will adopt a resolution requesting that your Board reallocate it to either supplement the Chittick Field Project or fund other projects.

The total cost of the Chittick Field Project is approximately \$4,990,000. The Project is funded with \$650,000 in City redevelopment funds and the remainder \$4,340,000 of the 1992 Proposition Specified Funds.

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in the amount of \$4,340,000, is budgeted in the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's Assessment Project Fund (HB4) under Other Charges.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1992 Proposition set forth various deadlines for agencies to encumber funds allocated to them in the Proposition and further set forth procedures for agencies to request reallocation of those funds, as follows:

The 1992 Proposition provided funding for projects that were specified in the measure and identified a procedure for revision of those projects prior to July 1, 1998. That procedure remains the method by which specified project funds may be approved by the Board for other uses. An agency may submit a revised plan of expenditure to use the funds for a project that is consistent with the purposes of the 1992 Proposition after the grantee's governing body considers and approves the revision of its project at a public meeting.

If your Board denies the City's requests, the City may either expend the funds for the uses originally specified, request your Board's approval to fund different new projects with the funds, or relinquish claim to these grant funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Kroc Community Center Project was certified by the City in June, 2009. Since the certification, the City has reduced the scope of the proposed project by eliminating the following features: auditorium, administration/education building, recreation center, aquatic facilities, amphitheater, gardens, play areas, walking trails, outdoor climbing wall and challenge course. The soccer field is the only feature that has remained as part of the modified project description in the Addendum which now consists of three soccer fields and a football field surrounded by an all-weather track with accommodations for various field sports. The 19-acre project site, Chittick Field remains the same.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Addendum was prepared to analyze proposed modifications to the Kroc Community Center project to determine whether such modifications would result in any new significant environmental impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of impacts set forth in the Certified EIR. On August 16, 2012, the City, in its role as lead agency under CEQA, found and determined that there was no substantial evidence that the modified project description of the Addendum to the EIR would have a significant effect on the environment; found that the Addendum to EIR reflected the independent judgment of the City; approved the Addendum; and found that the project will have no adverse effect on fish and wildlife

resources.

With respect to your Board's approval of the project described herein, the County also acts as a responsible agency for the purposes of CEQA, and therefore, we recommend that your Board independently consider and adopt the Addendum to the EIR.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by the District but are required so that the City may proceed with the Chittick Field Project, if all applicable conditions of the grant are met.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects/Debt Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:IV:LB

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors